

*L. leucopterus* and also some hybrids between *L. marinus* and *L. glaucus* (= *hyperboreus*) reared at the Zoological Garden at Copenhagen.

Three plates in color of the former hybrids are given, showing them in several stages of plumage, from juvenal to adult, while there are also diagrams of the coloration of the wing tips. In connection with the second hybrid, Mr. H. Winge is quoted as suspecting a hybrid origin for the rare *Larus nelsoni*, and there is a description of a supposed wild hybrid *L. marinus* x *L. glaucus* taken at Upernavik, Greenland.

This paper should be consulted by students of the Laridæ, as it may throw light upon some of the still unsettled problems regarding the relationship of certain species of gulls.—W. S.

**Recent Papers by Oberholser.**—Six papers by Dr. Oberholser have recently appeared in the 'Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum.' One of these<sup>1</sup> is a review of the species of the genus *Nannus*, comprising our Winter Wren and the common Wren of Europe and their allies. Dr. Oberholser recognizes no less than thirty-six forms of these birds, all of which he regards as subspecies of *N. troglodytes*. The five American species and subspecies of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' will therefore appear as *Nannus troglodytes hiemalis*, etc., if his views are to be followed. Furthermore, his studies of the Alaskan birds leads him to recognize three new forms: *N. t. kiskensis* (p. 228) from Kiska Island, *N. t. tanagensis* (p. 230), Tanaga Island, and *N. t. petrophilus* (p. 232), Unalaska Island.

The birds of the Tambelan Islands, China Sea<sup>2</sup> form the subject of another paper based upon collections of Dr. W. L. Abbott. Twenty-two species are listed, of which *Orthorhamphus magnirostris scommophorus* (p. 133) is described as new.

Dr. Abbott's collections from Pulo Taya, south eastern Sumatra, are also described by Dr. Oberholser<sup>3</sup> ten species being listed, of which *Lamprocorax panayensis richmondi* (p. 272) and *Cinnyris ornata microleuca* (p. 273) are new.

In a revision of the races of the White-collared Kingfisher, *Sauropatis chloris*,<sup>4</sup> Dr. Oberholser recognizes twenty-four subspecies, the new ones being: *S. c. palmeri* (p. 369), Mt. Salak, Java; *S. c. azcla* (p. 377), Engano Island, W. Sumatra; *S. c. chloroptera* (p. 379), Simalur Island; *S. c. amphiryta* (p. 382), Nias Island; and *S. c. hyperpontia* (p. 386), Vate Island, New Hebrides.

<sup>1</sup> Notes on the Wrens of the Genus *Nannus* Billberg. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. National Museum, Vol. 55, pp. 223-236. 1919.

<sup>2</sup> The Birds of the Tambelan Islands, South China Sea. By Harry C. Oberholser. Ibid., pp. 129-143.

<sup>3</sup> Notes on Birds Collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott on Pulo Taya, Berhala Strait, South-eastern Sumatra. By Harry C. Oberholser. Ibid., pp. 267-274.

<sup>4</sup> A Revision of the Subspecies of the White-collared Kingfisher, *Sauropatis chloris* (Boddaë). By Harry C. Oberholser. Ibid., pp. 351-395.

A study of a series of the Nicobar Megapode induces Dr Oberholser<sup>1</sup> to recognize two races, *Megapodius nicobariensis abbotti* (p. 400) from Little Nicobar being described as new. It occurs also on Great Nicobar, while the typical form is restricted to the middle and northern islands of the group.

Dr. Abbott's second collection from Simalur Island, Sumatra, consists of 38 species, which are listed by Dr. Oberholser,<sup>2</sup> *Hypotaenidia striata reliqua* (p. 476) being the only novelty.

None of the recent papers from the National Museum 'Proceedings' are dated except with the year, which is likely to cause much trouble in the future. If it was impracticable during war times to print the date on the separates, it surely could have been added with a rubber stamp before they were mailed. So much time is wasted today in ascertaining the actual dates of publication of old works that it is disheartening to find one of our leading scientific institutions reverting to this careless practice.—W. S.

**Captain S. A. White's Explorations in Australia.**<sup>3</sup>— Captain White, who has contributed so many valuable articles to 'The Emu' and other Australian scientific journals, has also published two little booklets, reprinted from 'The Register' and illustrated by many half-tones from photographs, which have just come to our attention.

One is entitled 'The Gawler Range. An Ornithological Expedition' and the other 'Ooldea on the East-West Railway, On the Flooded Murray River and Other Sketches.'<sup>4</sup> They are most interesting accounts of travel in the wilds of the Australian continent and are replete with observations on bird life.—W. S.

**Bangs and Penard's 'Critical Bird Notes.'**<sup>5</sup>— In the process of their studies of the Lafresnaye Collection of birds recently presented by the Boston Society of Natural History to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Messrs. Bangs and Penard have discovered the necessity for various changes in names, recognition of new races, etc., which are presented in the present paper in advance of their general report on the Lafresnaye collection. The new forms described are: *Herpetotheres cachinnans queribundus* (p. 23), Pernambuco, Brazil; *Eupsittula astec vicinalis* (p. 24), Tamaulipas, Mexico; *Synallaxis brachyurus chapmani* (p. 25), Jimenez; Colombia; *Dendrocincla lafresnaye christiani* (p. 25), Pavas, Colombia,

<sup>1</sup> The Races of the Nicobar Megapode, *Megapodius nicobariensis* Blyth. By Harry C. Oberholser. *Ibid.*, pp. 399-402.

<sup>2</sup> Notes on Dr. W. L. Abbott's Second Collection of Birds from Simalur Island, Western Sumatra. By Harry C. Oberholser. *Ibid.*, pp. 473-498.

<sup>3</sup> The Gawler Ranges. An Ornithological Expedition. By Capt. S. A. White. Adelaide. 1913. pp. 1-58.

<sup>4</sup> Ooldea, on the East-West Railway, On the Flooded Murray River and Other Sketches. By Capt. S. A. White. Reprinted from *The Register*. pp. 1-58.

<sup>5</sup> Some Critical Notes on Birds. By Outram Bangs and Thomas E. Penard. *Bull. Museum Comp. Zool.*, Vol. LXIII, No. 2. June, 1919. pp. 21-40.